

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 2. This sheet replaces the original sheet including Fig. 2.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. By the Office Action, Fig. 2 is objected to, and a Restriction Requirement is made. By this Amendment, Fig. 2 is amended. Support for amended Fig. 2 appears in the specification at, for example, paragraph [0031]. No new matter is added.

I. Objection to Fig. 2

The Office Action objects to the Figures because they do not include an item corresponding to reference numeral 100 cited in the specification at paragraph [0031]. By this Amendment, Fig. 2 is amended to include an indication that all of the components in the Figure refer to the inkjet printer cartridge 100. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

II. Restriction Requirement

The Office Action also requires a Restriction between Group I (claims 1-11 and 14, drawn to a method of joining two parts in a cartridge) and Group II (claims 12, 13, and 15, drawn to a cartridge). In response, Applicants elect Group I (claims 1-11 and 14, drawn to a method of joining two parts in a cartridge), with traverse. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement.

The Restriction Requirement asserts that Group I is distinct from Group II. Although Applicants agree that the inventions of Groups I and II may be independent or distinct as claimed, Applicants respectfully submit that the Restriction Requirement between Group I and Group II is improper, and should be withdrawn.

According to MPEP §803, there are two requirements that must be met before a proper Restriction Requirement may be made. These two requirements are: "The inventions must be independent . . . or distinct as claimed; and there must be a serious burden on the Examiner if restriction is not required . . . " (emphasis added). Applicants respectfully submit that the Office

Action has failed to establish the second requirement set forth in MPEP §803, that a serious burden exists on the Examiner if restriction is not required between the Groups of claims.

In the present application, Group I is directed to a method of joining two parts in a cartridge, and Group II is directed to a print cartridge. Accordingly, search and examination of the subject matter of Group I would encompass a search for the subject matter of Group II, and any additional search would not impose a serious burden upon the Examiner.

It is therefore respectfully asserted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. MPEP §803 states that "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." (Emphasis added). Because Applicants have elected Group I, directed to a method of joining two parts in a cartridge, the further search and examination of Group II, directed to a print cartridge, would not place a serious burden upon the Examiner.

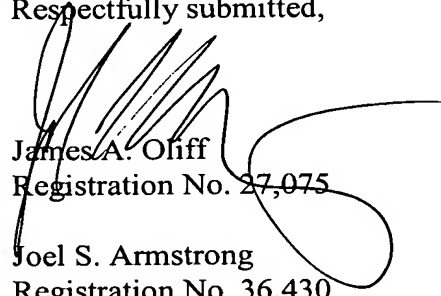
For at least these reasons, and in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office, it is respectfully requested that the Restriction Requirement be reconsidered and withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Replacement Fig. 2
Petition for Extension of Time

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